

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 TRSY-02 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ACDA-07 PA-01

PRS-01 /112 W

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R 031055Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3080

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 3551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SU

SUBJECT: UNION OIL PURSUING OFF-SHORE RED SEA PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

REF: KHARTOUM 1689 (NOTAL)

1. HENRY L. BRANDON, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNION INTERNATIONAL OIL DIVISION, SIGNED AGREEMENT ON NOV 25 WITH MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY TO PURCHASE GEO-PHYSICAL DATA IN RED SEA EXPLORATION AREA BETWEEN LATITUDE 21 DEGREES - 23 DEGREES E AND LONGITUDE 35 - 37 DEGREES 30 MINUTES E. UNION OIL IS PAYING APPROXIMATELY \$50 THOUSAND FOR SEISMIC SURVEYS FROM GOS FOR THIS 14,400 SQUARE KILOMETER AREA.

2. THIS AREA IS ADJACENT TO THE UNION OIL RED SEA EXPLORATION AREA IN EGYPT. BRANDON IS AWARE OF SUDANESE/EGYPTIAN DISPUTE OVER BORDER DEMARCATION. HE INDICATED THAT GOE HAD DELIBERATELY DEFINED THEIR DEVELOPMENT AREA IN EGYPT SO THAT THIS DISPUTE WOULD
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NOT AFFECT IT.

3. BRANDON HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH MININD SULIMAN DURING WHICH IT BECAME CLEAR THAT FUTURE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUDAN'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES WOULD BE BASED UPON PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS. THE SYSTEM OF EXPLORATION LICENSING AND LEASES FOR PRODUCTION DEFINITELY WOULD BE ABANDONED. BRANDON TRIED TO EXPLAIN CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DECISION IN TERMS OF NEW US TAX LAWS, BUT FOUND GOS COULD NOT BE DISSUADED. THEREFORE, IF IT DECIDES TO PROCEED WITH EXPLORATION, UNION OIL WILL SET-UP SUDANESE SUBSIDIARY. BREWER

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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